Case 1.04-CV-10010-3LA DU	cument i lieu 04/21/2004 i age i oi 20
	RECEIPT # 55478
IN THE UNITED S	TATES DISTRICT COURT FORAMOUNT \$ <i>ECO</i>
THE DISTRIC	CT OF MASSACHUSETTS SUMMONS ISSUED
	LOCAL RULE 4.1
ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA,	AND TO FORM
	MCF ISSUED ///
PLAINTIFF,	BY DPTY, CLK, 79
v.	DATE 4 23 01
SUNBRIDGE HEALTHCARE	) No
CORPORATION, D/B/A	
SUNBRIDGE CARE &	
REHABILITATION FOR	04-10810 NG
	AA TOOLO MG
WOOD MILL,	) A
DEFENDANT.	MAGISTRATE JUDGE / LY and
	,

### NOTICE OF REMOVAL

To the Honorable Judges of said Court.

SunBridge Healthcare Corporation, d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, a New Mexico corporation, the defendant in the above entitled action, respectfully shows to the Court:

- 1. The above action has been brought in the Superior Court, County of Essex, and is now pending therein. Said action was initially commenced on January 27, 2004 against SunBridge Healthcare Group, Inc. d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, a Massachusetts corporation.
- 2. On February 27, 2004, the plaintiff subsequently moved to amend the complaint, with the defendant's consent, to change the misnamed defendant from SunBridge Healthcare Group, Inc. d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill to SunBridge Healthcare Corporation, d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill. The Essex Superior Court allowed the plaintiff's Motion to Amend on March 26, 2004.

- Based on the claims the plaintiff alleges, it is anticipated that the plaintiff will 4. seek damages in excess of the amount in controversy. Therefore, the matter in controversy exceeds, exclusive of costs and disbursements, the sum of \$75,000. No change of citizenship of parties has occurred since the commencement of this action.
- Copies of all process, pleadings and orders served upon the petitioner are filed 5. herewith.

WHEREFORE, the defendant prays that this action be removed from state court to this court as provided by law.

Dated: April 20, 2004

SunBridge Healthcare Corporation,

d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill,

By its attorneys,

existing entity.

Scott Griggs

(BB**Ø**# 555988)

Michael Williams

(BBO# 634062)

Jill M. Morrissey

(BBO# 655272)

Lawson & Weitzen, LLP

88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345

Boston, MA 02210-1736

Telephone: (617) 439-4990

Facsimile: (617) 439-3987

hereby certify that a true capy of the above current was served upon (each party spearing pro se and) the attorney of record for each other party by mail telecopier, on April 20

elmoning

2

MAR-03-2004 11:14 505 468 2944 F.04723

Case 1:04-cv-10810-JLA Document 1

Filed 04/21/2004

Page 3 of 20 JAN 3 0 2004

THE LAW OFFICES OF
STRUFFOLINO & ZAPPALA

ONE BRANCH STREET, SUITE 6 METHUEN, MA 01844 TELEPHONE: 978-682-7003 FACSIMILE: 978-682-6689

MICHELE N. STRUFFOLINO\*\* ALFRED M. ZAPPALA\* MICHELLE Y. KAMINSKI\*

\*\*LICENSED IN MA & NH

\*LICENSED IN MA

NEW HAMPSHIRE ADDRESS P.O. BOX 181

SALEM, NH 03079 TEL, 603-898-0070

REPLY TO:

January 26, 2004

Essex Superior Court Department

34 Federal Street Salem, MA 01970

Attn: Civil Clerk

Pauline tes

Il= 9/27/02

2/11/04

Re: The Estate of Angel L. Rivera vs. Sunbridge Health Care Group, Inc., d/b/a Sunbridge Care & Rehabilitation Wood Mill

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed herewith please find the following documents for filing:

- 1. Civil Action Cover Sheet;
- 2, Complaint and
- 3. Check in the amount of \$275.00.

Please provide my office with a Docket Number, Summons and Tracking Order at your earliest

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

Very inply yours,

Michele N. Straffelino/mpn

Ficiosites

Yadius Rivera

traceval cities (Carabinege dategrated Servaces Group, Inc.

Мых-из-иши 11:16

Case 1:04-cv-1(81) D-JLA Document 1 Filed 04/21/2004 Page 4 of 20

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT

ESSEX, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT DOCKET NO.

THE ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA,
Plaintiff

W.

COMPLAINT

SUNBRIDGE HEALTH CARE GROUP, INC. d/b/2 SUNBRIDGE CARE & REHABILITATION WOOD MILL,

Defendant

### **PARTIES**

- The Plaintiff, Angel Rivera (hereinafter referred to as "Mr. Rivera") who is deceased, was a natural person residing as a patient and occupant of the SunBridge Cure & Rehabilitation Wood Mill, 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Yadiris Rivera of 882 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford, Bristol County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the surviving child of Angel L. Rivera has filed a petition in the Essex County Probate and Family Court to be appointed as the Administratrix of the Estate of Angel L. Rivera.
- The Defendant, SunBridge Health Care Group, Inc. if 101 Sun Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM owns and operates SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation Wood Mill (hereinafter referred to as "SunBridge"), a nursing home and rehabilitation center located at 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

- At the times herein stated SunBridge owned and operated a missing home and/or massing center facility located at 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- At the times herein stated, Mr. Rivera was a patient and occupant of SimBridge masing home facility located at 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- On or about March 7, 2002, at approximately 7:00 p.m., Mr. Revera was lying in a bed in the room he occupied at SunBridge. Mr. Rivera fell from his bed in the floor as a result of a defective and/or dangerous condition, including the consistion of the bed

- 6. As a result of the fall, Mr. Rivera was caused to sustain serious injury a strike to his head, which resulted in a lump to the right side of his head and injury to the right side of his body.
- 7. On or about March 8, 2003 at approximately 3:30 a.m., Mr. Rivera was transported from SunBridge to the Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence, Massachusetts. Mr. Rivera was unconscious and unresponsive.
- 8. As a result of the fall, Mr. Rivera sustained serious injuries and pain and suffering which resulted in his death on March 9, 2002 at the Lawrence General Hospital.

## COUNT 1- NEGLIGENCE/RECKLESS CONDUCT

- 9. The Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates herein paragraphs 1 through 9 of this Complaint.
- 10. On or about March 7, 2002, the Defendant so negligently, carelessly and recklessly maintained the facility and cared for Mr. Rivera so as to cause Mr. Rivera to fall from his bed and sustain serious injury.
- 11. The Defendant failed to exercise reasonable care to eliminate dangers and defects in the bed and to care for Mr. Rivera, who was a patient and occupant of the facility owned and operated by the Defendant.
- 12. As a result of the negligence, carelessness and recklessness of the Defendant, Mr. Rivera sustained serious personal injuries and pain and suffering which was a direct cause of his death on or about March 9, 2002.

## COUNT 11 - WRONGFUL DEATH

- 13. The Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates herein paragraph 1 through 13 of this Complaint
- On or about March 7, 2002, the Defendant's negligent conduct and/or act in falling to maintain the facility that which Mr. Rivera was a patient and occupant, caused Mr. Rivera's death
- 15. Mr. Rivera would have recovered damages for personal injuries if his death had not resulted, which was emised by the Defendant's negligent mid/or reckless conduct and/or act.
- 16. As a result of the negligent and/or reckless conduct and/or act of the Defendant, Mt. Rivera sustained senious personal injuries, which resulted to his death on or about March 9 2002.

MAR-03-2004 11:18

Case 1:04-cv-10810-JLA Document 1 Filed 04/21/2004 Page 6 of 20

### REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands the following:

- 1. That this Court determine the actions of the Defendant were negligent and reckless and enter judgment for the Plaintiff on Count I;
- 2. That this Court determine the actions of the Defendant caused the wrongful death of the Plaintiff pursuant to G.L. c. 229, § 2 and enter judgment for the Plaintiff on Count II;
- 3. That this Court award the Plaintiff damages as determined at trial, plus interests, costs and attorney's fees as provided by law, and
- 4. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: January 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,
THE ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA
By its attorney,

Michele N. Stristolino

LAW OFFICES OF STRUFFOLINO & ZAPPALA

One Branch Street, Suite 6

Methuen, MA 01844

(978) 682-7003

BBO# 554872

## THE LAW OFFICES OF STRUFFOLINO & ZAPPALA

ONE BRANCH STREET, SUITE 6
- METHUEN, MA 01844
TELEPHONE: 978-682-7003
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MICHELE N. STRUFFOLINO\*\* ALFRED M. ZAPPALA\* MICHELLE Y. KAMINSKI\*

\*\*LICENSED IN MA & NH \*LICENSED IN MA NEW HAMPSHIRE ADDRI P.O. BOX 181 SALEM, NII 03079 TEL. 603-898-0070

REPLY TO:

March 22, 2004

Essex Superior Court - Lawrence Attn: Civil Clerk 43 Appleton Way Lawrence, MA 01841

Re: Estate of Angel L. Rivera v. SunBridge Healthcare Corporation Docket No. ESCV2004-00129-D

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed herewith please find the following documents for filing in the above-referenced matter:

- 1. Assented to Motion to Amend Complaint; and
- 2. Amended Complaint.

Kindly handle in your usual manner. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your anticipated courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Michele N. Struffolino

Enclosures

cc: Michael Williams, Esq.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT DOCKET NO: ESCV2004-00129-D

THE ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA,
Plaintiff

vs.

SUNBRIDGE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION d/b/a SUNBRIDGE CARE & REHABILITATION FOR WOOD MILL,

#### Defendant

#### ASSENTED TO MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the party in the above-captioned matter and moves that the Court allow the Plaintiff to amend its complaint to reflect the correct name of the Defendant Company, SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill. The Plaintiff's attorney and Defendant's attorney assent to the Amended Complaint.

DATED: March 22 , 2004

Respectfully submitted.

SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill,

The Estate of Angel L. Rivera By its attorney,

Michael Williams, Esquire
LAWSON & WEITZEN, LLP
attorney for SunBridge Healthcare Corporation
d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation
88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345

Boston, MA 02210-2414

(617) 439-4990

Mighele N. Struffolino

LAW OFFICES OF STRUFFOLINO & ZAPPALA

1 Branch Street, Suite 6 Methane, MA 01844 (978) 682-7003

&B.O.# 554872

MAR-16-2004 TUE 01:03 PM STRUFFOLING & ZAPPALA

617 439 3987

P.02/02 P. 03

FAX NO. 8784703079

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, 8S.

SUPERIOR COURT DOCKET NO: ESCV2004-00129-D

THE ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA,
Plaintiff

YS.

SUNBRIDGE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION d/b/s SUNBRIDGE CARE & REHABILITATION FOR WOOD MILL.

Defendant

### ASSENTED TO MOTION TO AMEND COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the party in the above-captioned matter and moves that the Court allow the Plaintiff to amend its complaint to reflect the correct name of the Defendant Company, SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill. The Plaintiff's attorney and Defendant's attorney assent to the Amended Complaint.

DATED: March \_\_\_ \_ . 2004

Respectfully submitted.

SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, The Estate of Angel I., Rivera By its attorney,

Michael Williams, Esquire LAWSON & WEITZEN, LLP

attorney for SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation

88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345

Boston, MA 02210-2414

(617) 439-4990

Michele N. Struffolino

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1 Branch Street, Suite 6 Methanc, MA 01844

(978) 682-7003

B.O.# 554872

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT

ESSEX, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT DOCKET NO.

THE ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA,
Plaintiff

v.

AMENDED COMPLAINT

SUNBRIDGE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION d/b/a SUNBRIDGE CARE & REHABILITATION FOR WOOD MILL,

#### Defendant

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. The Plaintiff, Angel Rivera (hereinafter referred to as "Mr. Rivera") who is deceased, was a natural person residing as a patient and occupant of the SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Yadiris Rivera of 882 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford, Bristol County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts is the surviving child of Angel L. Rivera has filed a petition in the Essex County Probate and Family Court to be appointed as the Administratrix of the Estate of Angel L. Rivera.
- 2. The Defendant, SunBridge Healthcare Corporation of 101 Sun Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM owns and operates SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill (hereinafter referred to as "SunBridge"), a nursing home and rehabilitation center located at 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

- At the times herein stated SunBridge owned and operated a nursing home and/or nursing center facility located at 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 4. At the times herein stated, Mr. Rivera was a patient and occupant of SunBridge nursing home facility located at 800 Essex Street, Lawrence, Essex County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- 5. On or about March 7, 2002, at approximately 7:00 p.m., Mr. Rivera was lying in a bed in the room he occupied at SunBridge. Mr. Rivera fell from his bed to the floor as a result of a defective and/or dangerous condition, including the condition of the bed.

- 6. As a result of the fall, Mr. Rivera was caused to sustain serious injury a strike to his head, which resulted in a lump to the right side of his head and injury to the right side of his body.
- 7. On or about March 8, 2003 at approximately 3:30 a.m., Mr. Rivera was transported from SunBridge to the Lawrence General Hospital, Lawrence, Massachusetts. Mr. Rivera was unconscious and unresponsive.
- 8. As a result of the fall, Mr. Rivera sustained serious injuries and pain and suffering which resulted in his death on March 9, 2002 at the Lawrence General Hospital.

#### COUNT 1- NEGLIGENCE/RECKLESS CONDUCT

- 9. The Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates herein paragraphs 1 through 9 of this Complaint.
- 10. On or about March 7, 2002, the Defendant so negligently, carelessly and recklessly maintained the facility and cared for Mr. Rivera so as to cause Mr. Rivera to fall from his bed and sustain serious injury.
- 11. The Defendant failed to exercise reasonable care to eliminate dangers and defects in the bed and to care for Mr. Rivera, who was a patient and occupant of the facility owned and operated by the Defendant.
- 12. As a result of the negligence, carelessness and recklessness of the Defendant, Mr. Rivera sustained serious personal injuries and pain and suffering which was a direct cause of his death on or about March 9, 2002.

#### COUNT 11 - WRONGFUL DEA'TH

- 13. The Plaintiff repeats, realleges and incorporates herein paragraph 1 through 13 of this Complaint.
- 14. On or about March 7, 2002, the Defendant's negligent conduct and/or act in failing to maintain the facility that which Mr. Rivera was a patient and occupant, caused Mr. Rivera's death.
- 15. Mr. Rivera would have recovered damages for personal injuries if his death had not resulted, which was caused by the Defendant's negligent and/or reckless conduct and/or act.
- 16. As a result of the negligent and/or reckless conduct and/or act of the Defendant, Mr. Rivera sustained serious personal injuries, which resulted in his death on or about March 9, 2002.

## REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands the following:

- 1. That this Court determine the actions of the Defendant were negligent and reckless and enter judgment for the Plaintiff on Count I;
- 2. That this Court determine the actions of the Defendant caused the wrongful death of the Plaintiff pursuant to G.L. c. 229, § 2 and enter judgment for the Plaintiff on Count II;
- 3. That this Court award the Plaintiff damages as determined at trial, plus interests, costs and attorney's fees as provided by law; and
- 4. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: March \_2 -, 2004

Respectfully submitted, THE ESTATE OF ANGEL L. RIVERA By its attorney,

Michele N. Struffolino

LAW OFFICES OF STRUFFOLINO & ZAPPALA

One Branch Street, Suite 6 Methuen, MA 01844

(978) 682-7003 BBO# 554872

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michele N. Struffolino hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing Assented to Motion to Amend Complaint and Amended Complaint, to the Defendants's attorney, Michael Williams, Esquire, LAWSON & WEITZEN, LLP, 88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345, Boston, MA 02210-2424 by mail, postage prepaid on this day of March, 2004.

Michele N. Struffolino

Civil Docket ESCV2004-00129

RE: Estate of Angel Rivera v Sunbridge Health Care Group Inc.

TO: Michael Williams, Esquire

Lawson & Weitzen

88 Black Falcon Avenue

Suite 345

Boston, MA 02210-2414

### CLERK'S NOTICE

This is to notify you that in the above referenced case the Court's action on 03/26/2004:

RE: Plaintiff's assented to MOTION to amend complaint to reflect the correct name of the defendant

is as follows:

MOTION (P#4) ALLOWED (Patrick Riley, Justice) Notices mailed March 29, 2004

Dated at Lawrence, Massachusetts this 29th day of March, 2004.

Thomas H. Driscoll Jr., Clerk of the Courts

BY:

Edward D. Sullivan Assistant Clerk

Telephone: (978) 687-7463

Copies mailed 03/29/2004

### LAWSON & WEITZEN, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

88 BLACK FALCON AVENUE, SUITE 345 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210-2414

EVANT, LAWSON
RICHARD B. WEITZEN \*
PAMELA B. BANKERT
FRANK L. BRIDGES
IRA H. ZALEZNIK
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JOHN A. TENNARO
WILLIAM F. COYNE, JR.
DAVID A. RICH\*
DENNIS J. MANESIS\*\*\*

NATALIE A. KANELLIST
PATRICIA L. FARNSWORTH
K, SCOTT GRIGGS
MICHAEL J. MADEVITT
MARTIN S. EBELTT
J. MARK DICKISON \*\*
CLARE B. BURHOE
ROBERT J. ROUGHSEDGE\*\*\*
CAROLINE A. O'CONNELL\*
JILL M. MORRISSEY
MARISSA A. GOLDBERG
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
NICOLE L. JOHNSON
KATHRYN E. FIECZARKA

April 6, 2004

BOSTON

YELEPHONE (617) 439-4990 TELECOPIER (617) 439-3987 EMAIL: POST@LAWSON-WEITZEN.COM WWW.LAWSON-WEITZEN.COM

CAPE COD

LAWSON, WEITZEN & BANKERT, LLP SIX GRANITE STATE COURT BREWSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 02631 TELEPHONE (S08) 255-3600

Essex Superior Court - Lawrence Civil Clerk's Office 43 Appleton Way Lawrence, MA 01841

> Re: Estate of Angel L. Rivera v. SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, Civil Action No. 2004-00129-D

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for filing, please find SunBridge Healthcare Corporation's Answer to the Amended Complaint. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 617.439.4990 with any questions.

(http://www

Jill M. Morrissey

Encl.

cc:

Michele N. Struffolino, Esq. Struffolino & Zappala One Branch Street, Suite 6 Methuen, MA 01844

K. Scott Griggs, Esq. Robert J. Roughsedge, Esq.

ALSO ADMITTED IN NY

<sup>..</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NH

ALSO ADMITTED IN CA ALSO ADMITTED IN DC

<sup>++</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NJ & PA

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN RI,CT, NH & ME

<sup>†</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NH & NY

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESSEX, ss

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT CIVIL ACTION No. ESCV2004-00129-D

The Estate of ANGEL L. RIVERA,

Plaintiff,

ν

SUNBRIDGE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, D/B/A, SUNBRIDGE CARE & REHABILITATION FOR WOOD MILL,

Defendant.

ANSWER TO AMENDED
COMPLAINT

Now comes the Defendant, SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill.

### **PARTIES**

- 1. The Defendant admits the first sentence of Paragraph 1 of the Complaint and is without sufficient knowledge or information at this time to either admit or deny the allegations contained in the second sentence of Paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
- 2. Admitted that the Defendant operates a skilled nursing facility at that location. The Defendant denies the remaining allegations as stated.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 3. The Defendant admits that it operated a skilled nursing facility at that location. The Defendant denies the remaining allegations as stated.
- 4. The Defendant admits that Mr. Rivera was at certain times a resident of said facility. The Defendant denies the remaining allegations as stated.

- 5. Denied.
- 6. Denied as stated.
- 7. The Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information at this time to either admit or deny the allegations contained in the second sentence of Paragraph 6 of the Complaint.
- 8. Denied.

### COUNT I

- 9. The Defendant restates its answers to the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 8 as if fully stated herein.
- 10. Denied.
- 11. Denied.
- 12. Denied.

WHEREFORE, the Defendant requests that this Court dismiss the action against

Defendant SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood

Mill, with costs.

#### COUNT II

- 13. The Defendant restates its answers to the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through12 as if fully stated herein.
- 14. Denied.
- 15. Denied.
- 16. Denied.

WHEREFORE, the Defendant requests that this Court dismiss the action against Defendant SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, with costs.

### FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Pursuant to Mass.G.L. c. 231, §60B, it is requested that a tribunal be convened within fifteen (15) days to afford the plaintiff an opportunity to present an offer of proof and substantiating evidence sufficient to raise a legitimate question of liability appropriate for judicial injury.

### SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

If the Plaintiff suffered the injuries or damages alleged, such injuries or damages were caused, in whole or in part, by someone for whose conduct the Defendant was not and is not legally responsible.

### THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The amount of recovery for alleged conscious pain and suffering, if any, is limited by the provision set forth in Mass.Gen.L. c. 231, §60H.

### FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The amount of recovery for past and future medical expenses, if any, is limited by the provision set forth in Mass.Gen.L. c. 231, §60G.

### FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims contained in the Complaint are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine comparative negligence.

### SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Any and all care provided to the Plaintiff was performed in accordance with the applicable standards, Massachusetts Statutes, the Code of Massachusetts Regulations and applicable federal regulations.

### SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The Plaintiffs claims are barred by the applicable statute of limitations.

#### JURY DEMAND

The Defendant, SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill, demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Dated:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the above document was served upon the attorneys of record for each party by First Class Mail.

SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Care & Rehabilitation for Wood Mill,

By its Attorneys,

Robert J. Roughsedge

(BBO# 555988) (BBO# 638180) (BBO# 655272)

Jill M. Morrissey

Lawson & Weitzen, LLP

88 Black Falcon Avenue, Suite 345

Boston, MA 02210-1736 Telephone: (617) 439-4990 Facsimile: (617) 439-3987

### LAWSON & WEITZEN, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

88 BLACK FALCON AVENUE, SUITE 345 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210-2414

EVAN T. LAWSON RICHARD 8. WEITZEN PAMELA B. BANKERT FRANK L. BRIDGES IRA H. ZALEZNIK JOHN J. WELTMAN \*\*\* VALERIE L. PAWSON GEORGE F. HAILER \* GEORGE E. CHRISTODOULO, PC CAROLINE A, O'CONNELL\* KENNETH B. GOULD JOSEPH FRIEDMAN JOHN A, TENNARO WILLIAM F. COYNE, JR. DAVID A. RICH\*

NATALIE A. KANELLIST PATRICIA L. FARNSWORTH K. SCOTT GRIGGS MICHAELJ, McDEVITT MARTIN S. EBELTT J. MARK DICKISON\*\* CLARÉ B. BURHOE ROBERT J. ROUGHSEDGE \*\*\* LILL M. MORRISSEY MARISSA A GOLDBERG MICHAEL WILLIAMS

NICOLÉ L. JOHNSON

KATHRYN E. PIECZARKA

April 20, 2004

#### ROSTON

TELEPHONE (617) 439-4990 TELECOPIER (6)7) 439-3987 EMAIL: POST@LAWSON-WEITZEN,COM WWW.LAWSON-WEITZEN.COM

#### CAPE COD

LAWSON, WEITZEN & BANKERT, LLP SIX GRANITE STATE COURT. BREWSTER, MASSACHUSETTS 02631 TELEPHONE (SOB) 255-3600

#### DENNIS J. MANESIS \*\* VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

United Stated District Court for the District of Massachusetts John Joseph Moakley Courthouse Civil Clerk's Office 1 Courthouse Way Boston, MA 02210

> Estate of Angel Rivera v. SunBridge Healthcare Corporation d/b/a SunBridge Re:

Care & Rehabilitation

#### Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced matter, please find one original and one copy of the Notice of Removal. Kindly file the same in your usual manner and date stamp the enclosed copy and return it to me in the enclosed envelope. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 617.439.4990 with any questions.

Encl. cc:

Michele N. Struffolino, Esq. (via U.S. Mail)

Struffolino & Zappala One Branch Street, Suite 6 Methuen, MA 01844

K. Scott Griggs, Esq. Robert J. Roughsedge, Esq.

<sup>\*</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NY

<sup>\*\*</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NH

<sup>· · ·</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN ÇA

<sup>+</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN DC

<sup>++</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NU & PA +++ AUSO ADMITTED IN RI, CT, NH & ME

<sup>†</sup> ALSO ADMITTED IN NH & NY

TT ALSO ADMITTED IN MI